

4 December 1985  
MBK-5014

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- November 1985

I. GENERAL

STAT A. On the evening of 21 November the bureau had to be evacuated approximately one hour before the normal closing time due to a fire in the two-story section of the Kian Gwan building immediately adjacent to the high-rise portion of the building which houses the bureau. Off-duty associate editor [redacted] happened to be passing by and was probably the first to notice the fire and give the alarm. He called to alert the duty editor at 2320 and also called the fire department. Bureau personnel on duty showed good presence of mind in evacuating the office in a calm and orderly way.

STAT The bureau chief, who had an excellent view of the fire from his new apartment across the street from the bureau, got together with [redacted] after the evacuation, and after determining that all personnel were safe, called the Wire to notify Headquarters of what had happened. The Wire notified various bureaus in the area to the possibility they might have to pick up what Bangkok coverage they could in the event the bureau was unable to open the following day. The fire department did a good job in containing the fire. However, early indications were that no one would be allowed into the building on the following day, and authorities also shut off all power from the auxiliary generator fearing further possible complications from water from the fire hoses getting into the electrical system. It turned out better than expected and the bureau was able to open on the 22nd with no adverse effects other than a slight smell of smoke that lingered for a day or two.

B. During the month the bureau began to receive the Vietnamese party paper NHAN DAN directly from the Australian Embassy in Hanoi. We have been receiving shipments weekly and all indications are that this will be a reliable arrangement. The lag in receipt time is from 7 to 14 days with the best time so far being 4 days for the 28 November issue received on 2 December. Efforts are underway to see if the Australians can also supply us with the army paper QUAN DOU NHAN DAN.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The noncommunist Cambodian clandestine "Voice of the Khmer", which was first picked up last month, began regular programming with four hours of news and commentary daily. After watching the radio carefully it was decided to put three casts on regular coverage. The fourth is very poorly heard and generally repeats earlier material.

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2. The bureau formally entered the television age when for the first time regular television programming was put on permanent coverage. The bureau is now monitoring the main evening Thai newscast daily from Bangkok's channel 9.

**B. Communications**

The bureau had occasion to use its altroute a number times due to technical problems at the Embassy TCU and also at the switch in Clark. While teething problems remain as communicators become more familiar with our use of the route through State Department commo, November saw the first successful use of the bureau's altroute in many months. Much of the credit goes to bureau engineer [redacted] who patiently worked out the necessary procedures and coordination among all concerned.

**C. Lateral Services**

1. Five items were processed at the request of the American Embassy in Vientiane, Laos.

2. One item from the Rangoon Domestic Service on the new demonetization law in Burma was processed at BBC request during the month.

**D. Technical**

1. The bureau took delivery of a new Nissan Urvan during the month.

2. The following non-expendable equipment was received during the month: 3 ea Sony VO-5630 video cassette recorders, serial numbers 26839, 26791, and 23371.

3. The following TRG antenna multicouplers were transferred to Nicosia Bureau at Headquarters request: 3 ea model HF-2-50, serial numbers 9, 33, and 38; 2 ea model SU-1-30-50, serial numbers 027 and 069; 6 ea model SU-1-30-75 serial numbers 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, and 135.

**III. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Personnel**

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1. Well-deserved promotions were given to the following: staff editor [redacted] to GS-9, Cambodian monitor [redacted] to FBN-9, and Thai/Chinese monitor [redacted] to FBN-8.

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2. A daughter, [redacted] was born to Cambodian Unit Chief [redacted]

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3. On the 22d, Cambodian monitor [redacted] married [redacted] [redacted] Most bureau personnel were able to attend a nice reception for them on the 24th at the Bangkok Hilton.

**IV. VISITS**

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Chief of Operations Group [redacted] from 31 October to 5 November.

Attachment: Monthly Production Report

Chief, Bangkok Bureau

## BANGKOK BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	618,470
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	277,340
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,393

<u>BROAD-CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLICATION</u>
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II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	21,235	20,420	254.00
	min.	min.	issues

III. <u>OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:</u> (publishable words per month)
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AUSTRALIA

Melbourne Overseas Service in English	19,780
Sydney THE AUSTRALIAN in English	1,000
Sydney THE BULLETIN in English	1,170

BANGLADESH

Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali	1,250
Dhaka Domestic Service in English	4,320
Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali	440
Dhaka Overseas Service in English	190
Dhaka BSS in English	680
Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English	990

BRUNEI

Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English	1,950
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BURMA

Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese	13,050
Rangoon Domestic Service in English	420

<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian	33,490
Phnom Penh SPK in English	16,540
Phnom Penh SPK in French	7,920

CHINA

Beijing International Service in Burmese	520
Beijing International Service in Indonesian	230
Beijing International Service in Thai	280
Beijing in Cambodian to Cambodia	5,310
Beijing in Hindi to India	210
Beijing in Malay to Malaysia	2,860
Beijing in Urdu to India and Pakistan	2,930

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	22,130
(Clandestine) Voice of Malayan Democracy in Malay	11,040
(Clandestine) Voice of The National Army Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian	10,600
(Clandestine) Voice of The People of Malaysia in Malay	5,780
(Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian	6,620

INDIA

Delhi Domestic Service in English	32,430
Delhi General Overseas Service in English	6,230
Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English	1,910
Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English	1,450
Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English	8,300
Delhi PATRIOT in English	640
Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English	6,330

<u>BROAD-</u>	<u>PRESS</u>	<u>PUBLI-</u>
<u>CASTS</u>	<u>AGENCIES</u>	<u>CATION</u>

INDIA (continued)

Madras THE HINDU in English	1,220
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INDONESIA

Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian	4,650
Jakarta International Service in English	4,360
Jakarta BERITA BUANA in Indonesian	1,630
Jakarta JAKARTA POST in English	2,430
Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian	1,840
Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian	470
Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian	1,310

LAOS

Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao	51,280
Vientiane KPL in English	24,650

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English	3,830
Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay	4,520
Kuala Lumpur International Service in English	14,570
Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay	3,530
Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English	2,110
Kuala Lumpur UTUSAN MALAYSIA in Malay	720

NEPAL

Katmandu External Service in English	460
Katmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English	140

PAKISTAN

Karachi Domestic Service in English	22,540
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<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
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PAKISTAN (continued)

Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu	2,500
Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu	1,120

SINGAPORE

Singapore Domestic Service in English	760
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SRI LANKA

Colombo Domestic Service in English	3,380
Colombo International Service in English	3,540

THAILAND

Bangkok 1st Army Division Radio in Thai	6,870
Bangkok Army Television Service in Thai	2,020
Bangkok Domestic Service in English	1,370
Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai	7,850
Bangkok Domestic Television in Thai	380
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English	4,940
Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai	2,780
Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English	23,220
Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English	8,330
Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai	750
Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai	980
Bangkok MATICHON in Thai	3,540
Bangkok NAEQ NA in Thai	4,500
Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai	2,160
Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai	2,320
Bangkok THE NATION in English	24,280

<u>BROAD- CASTS</u>	<u>PRESS AGENCIES</u>	<u>PUBLI- CATION</u>
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UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow in	
Burmese to Burma	1,850
Moscow in	
Cambodian to Kampuchea	1,550
Moscow in	
Indonesian to Indonesia	2,430
Moscow in	
Lao to Laos	430
Moscow in	
Thai to Thailand	1,130
Moscow in	
Urdu to Pakistan	1,310

UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in	
English	490

VIETNAM

Hanoi Domestic Service in	
Vietnamese	69,930
Hanoi International Service in	
English	12,790
Hanoi International Service in	
Thai	1,090
Hanoi VNA in	
English	12,330
Hanoi NHAN DAN in	
Vietnamese	21,330
Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in	
Vietnamese	8,970